

I.O. - 8259



THE NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS, TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 1929.

L. HOOVER'S DIVORCE ACTION

Sequel to Wife's Alleged Infatuation for Man Met in China

"N.-C. D. N." SPECIAL SERVICE

Washington, Mar. 10.

The complaint* in the divorce action brought on behalf of Mr. J. Hoover, described as an American aviator now living in China, against Muriel de Vere Littleton Hoover was published in this morning's newspapers.

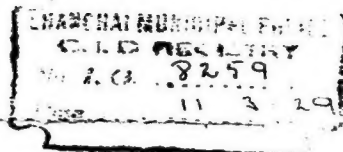
It describes how Mrs. Hoover met General George A. L. Dumont, now French military attaché in Washington, while she was in China in 1922 and 1926 and asserts an infatuation started which has continued since that time.

General Dumont is named as co-respondent in the action, which, the newspapers assert, will not be contested by Mrs. Hoover who is described as an "English beauty." The suit has aroused considerable local interest as General Dumont is widely known in social circles here. —United Press.

II a. c. (Pal)
H.R. 12 ³/₂₉

III

C.I.D. Reg.
Please attach to this
file. Nally



THE NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS, MONDAY, MARCH 11, 1929

**LOCAL MAN'S DIVORCE
ACTION**

**Mr. L. Hoover's Suit Against
Wife in Washington**

"N.-C. D. N." SPECIAL SERVICE

Washington, Mar. 9.
On behalf of Mr. Lawrence Hoover,
an American aviator, now in China,
a divorce suit was filed here to-day
against Muriel Littleton de Vere
Hoover, an English beauty. Mr.
Hoover named General George A. L.
Dumont, military attaché of the
French Embassy here, as corres-
pondent.—United Press.

See

1-a. c. (Pol)

Information

MR. 11 29

11- a/p. b. g. Information.

J.P.G. 11/2/29

(C.I.D.) Office Notes

February 18, 1929.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
C. I. D. REGISTRY
No. <i>File No. 1339</i>
Date <i>20.2.29</i>

Despite careful enquiries little can be learned of L.E. de S. Hoover's movements since his return to Shanghai from Nicaragua in December 1928. He states that he represents W.A. Harriman & Coy., American Financiers, and has visited Nanking on several occasions with a view to interesting the Nationalist Government in the purchase of aeroplanes, but whether he has been successful or not is unknown.

From his mode of living Hoover appears to be well supplied with funds and it is suspected that, in addition to any legitimate business, he is also engaged in gun running, but no corroboration of this can so far be found.

Hoover resides at No. 72I Avenue Joffre, French Concession.

W. H. Hearn
D. S.

W.D.C.I.

For Sec.
File but
keep the person in
mind & report any
activities.
14/2
Scay

Foreign Section,
Please act and return to C.I.D.
Reg. W. H. Hearn.
Noted N.R. 21. 14.2.29.

N.R. 1339
JPH
13.2.29

10.30 Am

4/1/29.

Mr Cunningham. U. S. Consul - General phase:-

Reference a person of the name of Hoover
in regard to which the police had a
confidential file when he was attempting
to place an order re repeating guns.
He is now back in Shanghai ostensibly
as the agent for the sale of Commercial
Aeroplanes (a perfectly legitimate business)
Consul-General thought that in view
of Police being interested in him they
would like to have information of his
return. Did not wish to write on the subject.
M.B.S.

M.B.S. (Sol)
Enquiries
Lear

Lawrence E. de S. Hoover.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE

C.I.D. REGISTRY

No. 1.0. 2259

June 1925

Lawrence E. de S. Hoover arrived in Shanghai as an accredited representative of the Auto-Ordnance Corporation of New York. His chief interest in China seems to have been the sale of the Thompson Auto-Rifle and the Thompson Sub-Machine Gun of which latter weapon the Municipal Council in September 1925 purchased from him 16 for the use of the Police. In 1926 he visited Manila, Tientsin, Peking, Mukden and Japan and it is suspected that these visits were in connection with the sale of the guns which he represented, although so far as is known the only business he has put through is the sale of the 16 Thompson Sub-Machine Guns to the Municipal Police. He has also paid one or two visits to the Chinese officials in Chapei, his excuse being that he wanted to find out whether any guns were leaking into Chapei. These visits have caused suspicion, but there is nothing definite to go on.

In May 1926, Hoover approached the Manager of the Operating Department of the Standard Oil Coy., re the sale of Thompson Sub-Machine Guns for the Company's up river steam boats. At the time Hoover stated it was necessary for the Company to make application for a "Huchow" through their Consul before they would be allowed to import such guns into China. This was done, but the American Minister could not see his way to make application for this special permit to the Chinese Government to import such class of guns as it was not consistent with the "Importation of Arms for Foreigners Arms Regulations promulgated at Peking in 1908".

Hoover's conduct here seems to have incurred the displeasure of his employers who repeatedly cabled him to return to New York and on the expiry of his contract in May 1926 dispensed with his services. It is also said that he has a private income which made him independent of the position he held with the Auto-Ordnance Corporation. It would appear, however, that this source of financial revenue is almost exhausted as he was posted at the American Club for non-payment and struck off the list of membership about two months ago.

Hoover's knowledge of the mechanism and parts of the Thompson Sub-Machine Gun and other similar weapons is recognised to be that of an expert.

With reference to the suspicion resting on Hoover re his connection with gun running and arms smugglers, it is known that he is friendly with Hoffman, who is suspected arms dealer and who lives in the Astor House, and with the notorious arms smugglers Elly Widler, yet it is significant that his name has not been mentioned in reference to any arms transactions reported, although at the recent trial of Worthington and Chalet at the American Court he was a frequent and interested visitor.

The information that he intends to visit Afghanistan has been frequently uttered by Hoover, who has stated his intention to enter India at Karachi and proceed via Afghanistan, Ispahan, the Persian Gulf of Aden to Africa. This journey to anyone who knows the country would be fraught with danger and is considered more a boast on Hoover's part than a reality.

Hoover has also been seen in the American Club wearing a Police armband and lanyard with pistol although he never was a member of the Police Specials or the S.V.C. He is at present residing at 391 Route Cardinal Mercier. He is being carefully shadowed.

File for
6/2

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
C.I.D. REGISTRY
No 1.0...8.2.9
Date.....W 2 19

February 3rd, 9

SECRET

Dear Sir,

I have to acknowledge receipt of
your letter of February 2, regarding L. d'o
Hoover, and shall be pleased if you will call
at any time convenient to you.

Yours faithfully,



Acting Director of Criminal Investigation.

Captain G.W.M. Grover R.M.,

Naval Staff Officer,

H.B.M. Consulate-General,

Shanghai.



FROM: NAVAL STAFF OFFICER

TELEPHONE:—CENTRAL 338
TELEGRAMS:—FUELITE. SHANGHAI

ROYAL NAVAL OFFICES
H. B. M. CONSULATE-GENERAL
SHANGHAI.

2nd February, 1929.

SECRET.

L. d'O. Hoover.

Dear Sir,

I shall be grateful for any information concerning the activities of this gentleman who is either an American or Canadian citizen and who is apparently interested in the firearms trade.

If it would save you trouble, I should be glad to call and view any information you have about him for myself.

Yours truly,

R.M. Brown

Captain, R.M.

The
Chief of C.I.D.
Shanghai Municipal Police.

*Reg'd
Reply
be please
with
true
to Col. H.
(plain sheet)*

*shall
call at any
Reg'd
for rec:
say thing more about
him since? 1/2
Reg'd*

August 9, 7

Dear Colonel,

With reference to your letter dated August 2 re Hoover, I am forwarding herewith a copy of a Police Report, dated August 9, giving details of the gentleman in question.

Yours sincerely,

he

Lieut. Col. C.H. Halland, O.B.E.
North China Command.

Other files in
C.R.

Shanghai Municipal Police.

8259
10/8/24

CENTRAL I. O. Station

August 9, 1927

REPORT ON ^cLawrence E. de S. Hoover.

Made by D.S.I. Robertson.

Forwarded by

J. Guiness A. G. P.

Sir,

Lawrence E. de S. Hoover arrived in Shanghai about June 1925 as an accredited representative of the Auto-Ordnance Corporation of New York. His chief interest in China seems to have been the sale of the Thompson Auto-Rifle and the Thompson Sub-Machine Gun of which latter weapon the Municipal Council in September 1925 purchased from him 16 for the use of the Police. In 1926 he visited Manila, Tientsin, Peking, Mukden and Japan and it is suspected that these visits were in connection with the sale of the guns which he represented, although so far as is known the only business he has put through is the sale of the 16 Thompson Sub-Machine Guns to the Municipal Police. He has also paid one or two visits to Chinese officials in Chapei, his excuse being that he wanted to find out whether any guns were leaking into Chapei. These visits have caused suspicion, but there is nothing definite to go on.

In May 1926 Hoover approached the Manager of the Operating Department of the Standard Oil Coy., re the sale of Thompson Sub Machine Guns for the Company's up river steamboats. At the time Hoover stated it was necessary for the Company to make application for a "Huchow" through their Consul before they would be allowed to import such guns into China. This was done, but the American Minister could not see his way to make application for this special permit to the Chinese Government to import such class of guns as it was not consistent with the "Importation of Arms for Foreigners Arms Regulations promulgated at Peking in 1908".

Shanghai Municipal Police.

Station.

192

REPORT ON

Made by

Forwarded by

- 2 -

Hoover's conduct here seems to have incurred the displeasure of his employers who repeatedly cabled him to return to New York and on the expiry of his contract in May 1926 dispensed with his services. It is also said that he has a private income which made him independent of the position he held with the Auto-Ordnance Corporation. It would appear, however, that this source of financial revenue is almost exhausted as he was posted at the American Club for non-payment and struck off the list of membership about two months ago.

Hoover's knowledge of the mechanism and parts of the Thompson Sub-Machine Gun and other similar weapons is recognized to be that of an expert.

With reference to the suspicion resting on Hoover re his connections with gun running and arms smugglers, it is known that he is friendly with Hoffman, who is a suspected arms dealer and who lives in the Astor House, and with the notorious arms smuggler Elly Widler, yet it is significant that his name has not been mentioned in reference to any arms transactions reported, although at the recent trial of Worthington and Chalet at the American Court he was a frequent and interested visitor.

The information that he intends to visit Afghanistan has been frequently uttered by Hoover, who has stated his intention to enter India at Karachi and proceed via Afghanistan, Isfahan, the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Aden to Africa. This journey to anyone who knows the country would be fraught with

Shanghai Municipal Police.

Station.

192

REPORT ON

Made by

Forwarded by

- 3 -

danger and is considered more a boast on Hoover's part than a reality.

Hoover has also been seen in the American Club wearing a Police armlet and lanyard with pistol although he never was a member of the Police Specials or the S.V.C. He is at present residing at 381 Route Cardinal Mercier.

He is being carefully shadowed.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

H. Robertson
D. S. I.

D.S.I.

*Copy to the Halland
Jorn. Sec*

49727

SECRET

Shanghai Defense Force

2. 8. 27

8257

10/8/27

My dear Charlie,

A few days ago I was informed
in very good authority that there is
an individual named (?) Hoover staying
at the Astor Hotel
who is a well known arms dealer.
He is an American and was
educated at Harvard University. He has
been in touch with Cohen during
his latter stay in Shanghai.
Hoover stated that he intended
to leave Shanghai fairly soon with
a view to arranging some confidential
deal in arms and ammunition
with the Afghanistan Government.
Hoover and his activities are
probably already well known to you but
I shall be very grateful if you
would kindly let me know in
reply on how far this information
of the Government of India
I should be particularly glad to
have any details that you can

go there about 1880
suffering from
scholarship
to Afghanistan
I am sincerely

G. H. H. Hallam

W. G. Clarke Esq. M.B.

Director

Criminal Intelligence

Shanghai Municipal Council

to have his file. Please put
up. He had intended going to India
or Afghanistan last year & also
intended visiting Malice (Indian
State) but for some reason the
trip or idea did not mature.

I asked the other day for an eye
to be kept on him as he was in
the Hotel in earnest conversation

with Hoffman - Hoover is also friendly
with William. Please his history from
the records & above note please.

I think the Anti-Ordinance
Co. has dropped out with his services
but am not quite sure. His
wife (either in Paris or England)
is also divorcing him. H 27927
I am, Sir.